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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SYDNEY 02364 080550Z

13
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 VOE-00 PPTE-00 JUSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /067 W
---------- 032100
R 080330Z NOV 74
FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5884
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS SYDNEY 2364

CANBERRA FOR INFO USSSO, USCINCPAC REP, USDAO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, CVIS, CASC, CPAS
SUBJ: CLEMENCY PROGRAM FOR VIETNAM ERA MILITARY DESERTERS:
PROCEDURES

REF: STATE 245656; SYDNEY 2332

1. RE PARA 5 STATE REFTEL AND PARA 3 SYDNEY REFTEL, FOLLOWING
IS EXPLANATION CONSULAR ACTIVITIES TO ASSIST U.S. MILITARY.

2. THERE IS NO U.S. DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICER SYDNEY.

3. AUSTRALIA, AND PARTICULARLY SYDNEY, WAS R&R VENUE FOR
VIETNAM TROOPS. U.S. SENDING STATE OFFICE ATTACHED AMEMBASSY
CANBERRA HANDLED LEGAL MATTERS INVOLVED IN R&R PROGRAM,
INCLUDING ACTION RE AWOL AND DESERTERS. R&R PROGRAM CLOSED
JANUARY 31, 1972 AND OFFICE IN SYDNEY VACATED. HOWEVER, THERE
REMAINED DESERTERS IN COUNTRY AND OTHER TROOPS AND SEAMEN WHO
DID NOT GET BACK TO THEIR UNITS FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER.
SOME DESERTERS WERE ARRESTED, OTHERS HAVE GIVEN THEMSELVES UP
AT CONSULATE GENERAL SYDNEY. RATHER THAN SHIP THEM DOWN TO
CANBERRA (200 MILES AWAY OVER BAD ROADS) FOR PROCESSING, AND THEN
HAVE THEM RETURNED TO SYDNEY TO CATCH USMAC FLIGHT OUT OF
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RICHMOND RAAF BASE, 40 MILES NW OF SYDNEY, (ALL OF THIS

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UNDER AUST MILITARY GUARD), INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT MADE BY
USSSO WITH CONSUL SYDNEY TO WRITE TECHNICAL ARREST ORDERS
CHARGEABLE TO SPECIFIED MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS TO ENABLE

SPEEDY DEPARTURE OF PRISONERS FROM RUCHMOND RAAF BASE. FLIGHTS
LEAVE MONDY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY, AND DELAY IN ISSUANCE
ORDERS WOULD MEAN CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT IN AUST MILITARY CON-
TROL. DELAYS COULD/HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY SUCH IRRITATIONS AS
POSTAL STRIKES, RAIL STRIKES, AIRLINES-STRIKES, AND JUST GENERAL
INEFFICIENCY. IN EACH INDIVUDUAL CASE, CONSUL CONTACTED USSSO
OFFICER CANBERRA PRIOR TO ISSUANCE TAO AND MAKING ARRANGEMENTS
WITH USMAC OFFICE RICHMOND.

4. IN SOME CASES, INDIVIDUALS WERE ARRESTED OR GAVE SELVES UP
TO CONSULS AT OTHER POSTS. THEY STILL HAD TO BE RETURNED TO
U.S. MILITARY CONTROL THROUGH USMAC RAAF RICHMOND. THIS VERY
SMALL DETACHMENT HAS NO FACILITIES FOR PROCESSING SUCH CASES.
HENCE, APPROPRIATE ORDERS WRITTEN BY CONSUL SYDNEY UPON REQUEST.
5. OTHER ASSISTANCE IS GIVEN TO MIL PERSONNEL ON PCS WHO ARRIVE
RICHMOND WITHOUT ONWARD TRANSPORTATION (MAC FLIGHTS GO TO NW
CAPE ON FRIDAYS, WOMMERA ON MONDAYS AND ALICE SPRINGS ON
WEDNESDAYS ONLY) AND FREQUENTLY WITHOUT FUNDS FOR SUBSISTENCE.

6. REPORTS OF THESE ACTIVITIES ON PART OF CONSUL IN SUPPORT
US MILITARY APPEARS IN CONSULAR PACKAGE FIGURES EACH YEAR.
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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